



bhartman@fwenc.co
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07/30/01 04:10 PM

To: don_hankins@fws.gov
cc:
Subject: Re: Russell City Energy Center

Hi Don,

I don't know if you remember me, but I work for Foster Wheeler Environmental. One of my projects is the proposed Calpine/Bechtell Russell City Energy Center, located in the City of Hayward, Alameda County. On April 30 we had a meeting with you and Dan Buford, in which we discussed potential biological issues associated with the project. I am following up on our meeting, to discuss whether the USFWS can issue a letter of concurrence, or if Section 7 consultation is needed.

As a brief reminder:

There was concern about the effect of noise on wildlife. The property adjacent to the proposed power plant site has marginal habitat (diked seasonal wetland with sparse Salicornia, Cotula, and several ruderal species) for the Salt Marsh Harvest Mouse as well as bird species that frequent diked seasonal wetlands. No federally listed bird species were observed in surveys; however, it was agreed that the presence of suitable habitat can be used as an indicator of the presence of the harvest mouse.

A second issue of concern was the relocation of the radio transmission towers that are currently on the proposed property, to the Old West Winton Landfill. USFWS expressed concern about the potential for bird collisions with the transmission towers, as well as creation of raptor perches. An analysis of these issues was requested.

Last, there was concern about the potential for the landscaping trees to provide nesting habitat for species such as crows.

Calpine/Bechtell has submitted the Application for Certification (AFC) to the California Energy Commission (CEC). Potential project effects on biological resources are discussed in detail in Chapter 8.2. The radio transmission tower relocation is addressed in an Initial Study prepared by the City of Hayward. Hopefully these parties have submitted the documents to your office for review. If you require any additional documentation, please let me know.

I understand you are often in the field or in meetings, and e-mail is the best mode of communication. Otherwise I can be reached at 916-928-4825.

Thank you,
Brett D. Hartman
Ecologist
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→ Waste mgmt. may not be willing to sell wetland habitat, could we come up w/ a ratio to preserve habitat.